

SENATE BILL 1146
By Haun

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those valiant soldiers who bravely gave their lives in service of their country and their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Leonard Guinn was born the son of the late A.B. and Zora Tilson Guinn and lived his entire life in the Clear Branch community of Unicoi County prior to entering the U.S. Army on September 28, 1942; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Guinn was assigned to overseas duty with the 339th Infantry in December 1943; and

WHEREAS, during his service with the 85th "Custer" Division on the fifth front, PFC Guinn acted heroically and in the finest of traditions of the Volunteer State while tending to a wounded comrade under intense enemy fire; and

WHEREAS, while administering first aid to his fallen comrade, PFC Guinn was wounded himself three times, yet he persisted in his humanitarian task and carried the wounded fellow soldier to a safe position; and

WHEREAS, despite being seriously injured himself, he returned to the aid station and issued lucid directions to a litter squad, who then evacuated the soldier for further medical treatment; and

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WHEREAS, PFC Guinn was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for his bravery, intrepid action and selflessness; the citation for the Bronze Star specifically mentioned his “heroic achievement” in this episode; and

WHEREAS, Dwight was again wounded in the line of duty on May 26, 1944 while serving in Italy; and

WHEREAS, after recovering from these injuries, PFC Guinn returned to active duty, and served his country with the highest distinction until his untimely death in combat on September 29, 1944; and

WHEREAS, although he was only twenty-six years old at the time of his death, Dwight Guinn evidenced more patriotism, valor, courage and humanitarianism during this all too brief span than most of us will achieve during a much longer lifetime; and

WHEREAS, because the scenic overlook in the Clear Branch community is but a short distance from where Dwight Guinn spent his formative years, it is most appropriate that such overlook should be named to permanently commemorate his life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the scenic overlook located on Interstate 181 at the Clear Branch community in Unicoi County is hereby designated as the “PFC Dwight Leonard Guinn Memorial Overlook” to honor the bountiful life of this courageous young man who made the ultimate sacrifice of his life while defending our freedoms and our way of life.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such overlook as the “PFC Dwight Leonard Guinn Memorial Overlook”.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.